Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-10 EUR-12 IGA-02 DHA-02 /104 W

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UNCLAS JAKARTA 6672

CONCPAC FOR POLAD.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, SHUM, ID
SUBJ: GOI COMMENTS ON CESSATION OF US. GRANT MILITARY
ASSISTANCE

REF: JAKARTA 6639

1. IN REPLY TO QUERIES FROM NEWSMEN ON MAY 22, DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL PANGGABEAN DENIED THAT RECENT ANNOUNCE-MENT OF CESSATION OF U.S. GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO INDONESIA AFTER 1978 WAS LINKED TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. PANGGABEAN REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT INDONESIA WOULD PREFER NO AID AT ALL TO THAT TIED TO THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PANGGABEAN EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT "INDONESIA HAS OBSERVED HUMAN RIGHTS."

2. IN ANSWER TO OTHER RELATED QUESTIONS, PANGGABEAN ALSO DENIED THAT THIS ACTION REFLECTED AMERICAN DISINTEREST IN INDONESIA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE STRESSED RATHER THAT THE U.S. SITLL ATTACHED IMPORTANCE TO INDONESIA BECAUSE OF"...HER STRATEGIC POSITION FOR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PASSAGE OF SHIPS AND THE NEED TO SAFEGUARD U.S. CAPITAL."
PANGGABEAN SPECULATED THAT THE US. DECISION TO CEASE
GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAD MORE TO DO WITH A REEVALUATION OF "...U.S. GLOBAL STRATEGY AND OTHER FACTORS
INVOLVING U.S. DOMESTIC INTERESTS."

3. PANGGABEAN INDICATED THAT INDONESIA WAS NOW STUDYING ARMS STANDARDIZATION IN THE ASEAN CONTEXT AND EXPLORING VARIOUS OPTIONS TO PURCHASE ARMS ABROAD. SEVERAL COUNTRIES, HE SAID,HAD OFFERED TO SELL ARMS TO INDONESIA, INCLUDING BRITAIN WHOSE ARMAMENTS WERERECENTLY ON DISPLAY IN INDONESIA (SEE REFTEL).

NEWSOM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: MASS, SHUM, ID, US

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